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SUBJECT: JERUSALEM MEDIA REACTION (05/07): PALESTINIANS: LET'S
SOLVE OUR OWN PROBLEMS

Main Stories:

All dailies lead with news citing wires and Wafa that Palestinian Authority (PA) President Abbas announced after his May 6 meeting with Egypt's President Mubarak in Cairo that PA Premier Fayyad of the PA's "resigned government" will remain in place with a "few additions" to the cabinet. The new members will not interfere with progress in national dialogue talks set for May 16 in Cairo, Abbas added. Abbas also noted that Arab countries will present President Obama with a comprehensive peace settlement for ending Middle East conflict during upcoming meetings. He stressed, "we want Israel to commit to the two-state solution, halt settlement expansion and excavations in [the Old City of] Jerusalem." In related news, Al-Hayat Al-Jadida front pages an AFP story that Hamas leader Mahmud Zahhar hopes that unity talks will succeed and urges the "revival" of the Palestinian Legislative Council, "particularly because it enjoys a Hamas majority."

Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu will inform President Obama about his willingness to propose "self-rule" for Palestinians in the West Bank, according to Al-Quds' front page. According to coverage that cites an Israeli daily, Netanyahu believes that the two-state solution cannot be achieved in the near future, noting, "we will not accept the two-state solution." Al-Ayyam runs front page coverage citing AFP about Netanyahu chairing a future ministerial committee to study the issue of, "economic development for the Palestinians." The committee will include Israeli Foreign Minister Lieberman, reporting notes. Netanyahu also announced that he will launch a number of economic projects in the West Bank, particularly in Jenin and Jericho in the near future, the paper adds. In related news, Al Hayat Al Jadida front pages a photo of children in Jenin protesting for the release of Palestinian prisoners from Israeli detention.

Al-Quds' front page reports that the UN fact finding committee investigating "Israeli violations in the recent war in Gaza," has requested that Israel provide more detail on an alleged secret detention center "1391" that was used in Gaza during the conflict to interrogate Palestinians. According to coverage that cites an Israeli daily, Israel has denied using the center for interrogation purposes. In related coverage, Al Ayyam runs a front page photo showing a teenager, blinded in the recent Gaza conflict, being assisted by his father to drink water. The picture introduces an article about May 6 rocket attacks on southern Israel and Israeli airstrikes on Gaza tunnels.

The Palestinian Authority Department of the Waqf and Antiquities noted on May 6 that the Israeli Antiquities Authority has opened a new "monument park" at the Israeli Knesset to showcase "Jewish history in Jerusalem," according to Al Quds' front page. The park includes the Umayyad stones that were allegedly "stolen" by the Israeli Antiquities Authority in April, and are being presented as remains of the Jewish Temple Mount, reporting concludes.

Arab League leaders have agreed to form a committee to push for emergency assistance to Gaza and reconstruction efforts there, Al Hayat Al Jadida's front page reports. The committee will be chaired by Arab League Secretary General Musa and include members of specialized Arab organizations, the Wafa article notes.

All front pages highlight factual, neutral reporting about the killing of a Palestinian shot by Israeli military near the Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron on May 6. The Israeli military claim that the youth tried to attack an Israeli soldier and steal his weapon, the

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Ma'an story notes.

Al-Quds runs an inside cartoon showing Israel refusing an American request to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

BLOCK QUOTES:

1) Al-Quds independent daily runs an editorial under the title, "U.S. determination...but!": (05/07) "We in the Palestinian Territories are facing deep divisions between Fatah and Hamas; the West Bank and Gaza. The divisions are being used by Israel as an excuse to avoid realizing the U.S. vision of a two-state solution and ending the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Israel [also uses the excuse that] two authorities now govern the Palestinian Territories [Hamas and Fatah] with two different policies. Our national obligation as Palestinians is to end this division and try to confront national challenges ourselves before we resort to asking the international community to solve our internal problems."

2) Regular columnist Talal Okal opines in Al-Ayyam independent daily under the title, "U.S. and Israel - What's new" (05/07): "The new rapprochement that Netanyahu has offered the U.S. administration seems to be serving Israeli interests perfectly: U.S. officials [Kerry and Biden] have called for normalization of relations with Israel in return for Israel halting settlement expansion. Netanyahu is also taking advantage of this rapprochement to encourage both official and closet allies in moderate Arab countries to join Israel in facing [the Iranian threat]."

WALLES